

Application No. 10/633,347
Amendment Dated February 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 1, 2005

EXAMINER INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicant's representative conducted a telephonic interview with the Examiner on January 26, 2006. The Examiner stated that the presently pending office action was erroneously deemed a final office action. Specifically, the Examiner noted that the office action of November 1, 2005 was the first office action sent since the Applicant's filing of a RCE. The Examiner stated that he would attempt to clerically have the office action of November 1, 2005 changed to a non-final office action.

Applicant's representative explained that both the Sibley and Mackenzie references did not teach, suggest, or disclose a linear guide as shown in FIG. 3. The Examiner agreed that this element was not present, but the Examiner felt that the "linear guide" element needed to be further described in the claim. More specifically, the Examiner gave the analogy of a dead bolt and the cylinder stating that the cylinder could be considered a linear guide. As such, Applicant's representative agreed to review the claim in the view of further defining the linear guide.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 15-36 were pending. Claims 15 and 26 have been amended.

In response to the Office Action mailed November 1, 2005, the Examiner's claim rejections have been considered. Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections regarding all pending claims and earnestly solicit allowance of these claims.

1. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b): Claims 15-36

The Examiner has rejected claims 15-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Sibley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,162,776). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. For the sake of brevity, the rejections of the independent claims 15 and 27 are discussed in detail on the understanding that the dependent claims are also patentably distinct over the prior art, as they depend directly from their respective independent claims. Nevertheless, the dependent claims include additional features that, in combination with those of the independent claims, provide further, separate, and independent bases for patentability.

In response, Applicants submit that Sibley does not anticipate the presently claimed invention. More specifically, Sibley does not disclose, teach, or suggest a linear guide comprising "an elongated member disposed along and in parallel to the linear movement path of the platform to stabilize and direct linear movement of the platform." Rather, Sibley merely discloses a camera mount movable in and out of a helicopter, wherein the mount is coupled to a frame member 32 that extends and retracts the camera. Applicants submit that the Sibley reference does not teach, suggest, or disclose any structure that stabilizes and directs the linear movement of the camera mount. Because Sibley does not teach, suggest, nor disclose a linear guide, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 15-36 has been traversed and respectfully requests allowance of these claims.

2. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b): Claims 15-17, 19-29, and 31-36

Claims 15-17, 19-29, and 31-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Mackenzie (U.S. Patent No. 5,969,686). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. For the sake of brevity, the rejections of the independent claims 15 and 27 are discussed in detail on the understanding that

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the dependent claims are also patentably distinct over the prior art, as they depend directly from their respective independent claims. Nevertheless, the dependent claims include additional features that, in combination with those of the independent claims, provide further, separate, and independent bases for patentability.

In response, Applicants submit that Mackenzie does not anticipate the presently claimed invention. More specifically, Mackenzie does not disclose, teach, or suggest a linear guide comprising "an elongated member disposed along and in parallel to the linear movement path of the platform to stabilize and direct linear movement of the platform." Rather, Mackenzie merely discloses a retractable radome having a hydraulic piston 32 to extend and retract the radome. Applicants submit that Mackenzie reference does not teach, suggest, or disclose any structure (such as the claimed linear guide) that stabilizes and directs the linear movement of the retractable radome. Because Mackenzie does not teach, suggest, nor disclose a linear guide, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 15-17, 19-29, and 31-36 has been traversed and respectfully requests allowance of these claims.

3. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Claims 18 and 30

Claims 18 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mackenzie (U.S. Patent No. 5,969,686) in view of Sibley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,162,776).

In response, the Applicants note that claims 18 and 30 are dependent claims that depend from independent claims 15 and 27, respectively. In light of the arguments submitted in Sections 1 and 2 of this response, the Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 18 and 30 are not obvious in view of Mackenzie and Sibley because these references, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest a linear guide comprising "an elongated member disposed along and in parallel to the linear movement path of the platform to stabilize and direct linear movement of the platform." Moreover, these dependent claims further recite and define the claimed invention, and thus, are independently patentable. In conclusion, the Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 18 and 30 has been overcome.

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CONCLUSION

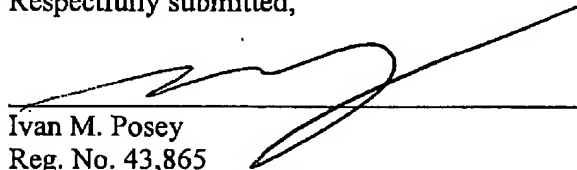
Applicants have made an earnest and *bona fide* effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all of claims 15-36 is believed to be in order, and a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is respectfully requested.

A Request for Extension of Time is filed with this Amendment and Response. Applicant believes no additional fee is due with this paper. However, if the Applicant is mistaken, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees from Deposit Account No. 502811.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 712-8300. The undersigned attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ivan M. Posey
Reg. No. 43,865
Customer Number 30076
Brown Raysman Millstein Felder & Steiner LLP
1880 Century Park East, Suite 1200
Los Angeles, California 90067-1621